

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

VICTOR BALLAST, LUIS SIMONE and MARQUIS
RICHARDSON, Individually and On Behalf of All
Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiffs,

-v-

WORKFORCE 7 INC., CONSOLIDATED EDISON
COMPANY of NEW YORK, INC., VALI
INDUSTRIES, INC. and RONALD HILTON, Jointly
and Severally,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:20-cv-03812 (ER)

**STIPULATION AND
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Parties having agreed to the following terms of confidentiality, and the Court having found that good cause exists for the issuance of an appropriately tailored confidentiality order pursuant to Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following restrictions and procedures shall apply to the information and documents exchanged by the parties in connection with the pre-trial phase of this action:

1. Counsel for any party may designate any document or information, in whole or in part, as confidential if counsel determines, in good faith, that such designation is necessary to protect the interests of the client in information that is proprietary, a trade secret or otherwise sensitive non-public information. Information and documents designated by a party as confidential will be stamped "CONFIDENTIAL."

2. The Confidential Information disclosed will be held and used by the person receiving such information solely for use in connection with the action.

3. In the event a party challenges another party's designation of confidentiality, counsel shall make a good faith effort to resolve the dispute, and in the absence of a resolution, the challenging party may seek resolution by the Court. Nothing in this Protective Order constitutes

an admission by any party that Confidential Information disclosed in this case is relevant or admissible. Each party reserves the right to object to the use or admissibility of the Confidential Information.

4. The parties should meet and confer if any production requires a designation of “For Attorneys’ or Experts’ Eyes Only.” All other documents designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” shall not be disclosed to any person, except:

- a. The requesting party and counsel, including in-house counsel;
- b. Employees of such counsel assigned to and necessary to assist in the litigation;
- c. Consultants or experts assisting in the prosecution or defense of the matter, to the extent deemed necessary by counsel; and
- d. The Court (including the mediator, or other person having access to any Confidential Information by virtue of his or her position with the Court).

5. Before disclosing or displaying the Confidential Information to any person, counsel must:

- a. Inform the person of the confidential nature of the information or documents;
- b. Inform the person that this Court has enjoined the use of the information or documents by him/her for any purpose other than this litigation and has enjoined the disclosure of the information or documents to any other person; and
- c. Require each such person to sign an agreement to be bound by this

Order in the form attached hereto.

6. The disclosure of a document or information without designating it as “confidential” shall not constitute a waiver of the right to designate such document or information as Confidential Information. If so designated, the document or information shall thenceforth be treated as Confidential Information subject to all the terms of this Stipulation and Order.

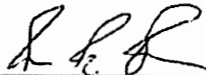
7. Any Personally Identifying Information (“PII”) (e.g., social security numbers, financial account numbers, passwords, and information that may be used for identity theft) exchanged in discovery shall be maintained by the receiving party in a manner that is secure and confidential.

8. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 502, inadvertent disclosure of privileged communications shall not constitute a waiver of the privilege in this matter provided the parties follow the steps set forth in Rule 502.

9. Notwithstanding the designation of information as “confidential” in discovery, there is no presumption that such information shall be filed with the Court under seal. The parties shall follow the Court’s procedures with respect to filing under seal.

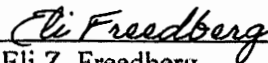
10. At the conclusion of litigation, Confidential Information and any copies thereof shall be promptly (and in no event later than 30 days after entry of final judgment no longer subject to further appeal) returned to the producing party or certified as destroyed, except that the parties’ counsel shall be permitted to retain their working files on the condition that those files will remain protected.

SO STIPULATED AND AGREED.



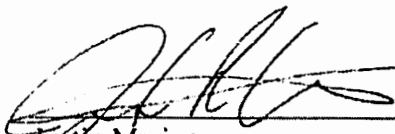
Brent E. Pelton
PELTON GRAHAM LLC
111 Broadway, Suite 1503
New York, New York 10000
212.385.9700

Attorneys for Plaintiffs



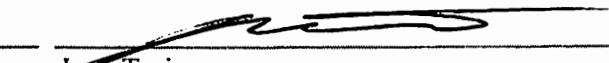
Eli Z. Freedberg
LITTLER MENDELSON, P.C.
900 Third Avenue, 7th Floor
New York, New York 10022
212.583.9600

Attorneys for Defendant Con Edison



Justin Marino
STEVENSON MARINO LLP
75 Maiden Lane
New York, New York 10038
212.939.7588

Attorneys for Defendant Vali Industries, Inc.



Lucy Tsai
TSAI PLLC
535 5th Avenue, 4th Floor
New York, New York 10017
646.829.9001

*Attorneys for Defendants Workforce7 Inc. and
Ronald Hilton*

SO ORDERED.

Dated:



June 29, 2022